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# CITRUS

## FEBRUARY FORECAST

### MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



**FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURE**

February 11, 2003

### ALL ORANGES NOW 199.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of utilization of all oranges for Florida, released today by the Agricultural Statistics Board of USDA is increased two million boxes to 199.0 million. The forecast is based on objective count surveys and analysis provided by the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service. The forecast is comprised of early-midseason-Navel oranges at 113.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month and Valencia oranges at 86.0 million, up two. In the previous ten seasons, the all orange February forecast has differed from final utilization by an average of 2.2 percent.

Weather conditions during January were generally colder than normal in all citrus producing areas of the state. Below freezing temperatures the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> were experienced in most areas but no significant damage or loss of fruit has been observed or reported. Weather conditions since November (above average rainfall, below normal temperatures) have been near ideal to protect fruit and trees from extreme cold temperatures.

### EARLY-MIDSEASONS 113.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Early-midseason-Navel oranges remains 113.0 million boxes, the same as last month and October. This forecast includes 5.5 million boxes of Navels, also unchanged. The row count survey conducted January 29-30 indicates about 87 percent of

Citrus production, February 1, 2003  
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2000-01	2001-02	Jan 10, 2003	Feb 11, 2003
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>113,000</b>	<b>113,000</b>
California	35,500	34,000	40,000	40,000
Texas	2,000	1,530	1,500	1,500
Arizona	480	270	200	200
Total Above Varieties	165,980	163,800	154,700	154,700
Valencias:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>95,300</b>	<b>102,000</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>86,000</b>
California	19,000	22,000	21,000	21,000
Texas	235	210	180	180
Arizona	420	250	250	250
Total Valencias	114,955	124,460	105,430	107,430
All Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>223,300</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>197,000</b>	<b>199,000</b>
California	54,500	56,000	61,000	61,000
Texas	2,235	1,740	1,680	1,680
Arizona	900	520	450	450
Total All Oranges	280,935	288,260	260,130	262,130

### FORECAST DATES 2002-03 SEASON

March 11, 2003	April 10, 2003
May 12, 2003	June 11, 2003
July 11, 2003	

the Navel rows harvested. The survey also indicates almost 84 percent of the other early-midseason rows harvested, the highest percent since the 1995-96 season. With weekly picking decreasing at historical rates, harvest will be near complete in early March.

### VALENCIAS NOW 86.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Valencia oranges is increased two million boxes to 86.0 million. Fruit size and drop measurements in January indicate that fruit sizes, even with the cold weather, continue to grow and are the largest in the series dating to 1960. Droppage continues higher than average, now estimated at 21 percent for the season. The combination of these factors with the fruit population indicates the increased amount of fruit available for harvest.

Limited harvest has started. Some fruit in the extreme northern producing areas experienced ice on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> but no loss has been reported.

### Components used in the February Forecast

Type	Bearing trees (1,000)	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
Early-Mid	34,042	950	13	225
Navel	2,313	454	12	133
Valencia	41,682	524	21	185

### FCOJ CONTINUES 1.57 GALLONS

The projection of FCOJ yield is continued at 1.57 gallons per box for all oranges. The projection of yield for the early-mid portion is reduced to 1.50 gallons per box from 1.52 and the Valencia portion remains unchanged at 1.67 gallons.

The Maturity Test Results on page 3 show pounds of solids in the remaining early-mid oranges is declining. Valencia pounds solids continues to increase as projected.

**GRAPEFRUIT HELD AT 40.0 MILLION BOXES**

The forecast of total grapefruit for certified utilization (including a preseason allocation of 1.5 million boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is maintained at 40.0 million boxes. The forecast categories are unchanged. All white grapefruit, including both seedless and seedy varieties, remains at 16.0 million boxes and all varieties of colored grapefruit are continued at 24.0 million boxes.

The January fruit size and loss (droppage from the sample trees) surveys are considered to be the benchmark of these factors for analysis with historic series. In October the projected average for white seedless grapefruit was 81 fruit per box; now the survey indicates 79 fruit per box. The initial projection of loss was nine percent, identical with the January value. The projected average fruit per box for all colored varieties was 86 and now it is 87 fruit per box. The projected loss from fruit drop was 12 percent, the same as the January value.

Average sizes for both the white and colored fruit varieties are above the 10 season mean, whites by almost 12 percent and colored by over nine percent. Loss from droppage is slightly below average for whites and about one percentage point above for colored. The fruit surveys will be continued for another two months on the remainder of the crops, as has been done in recent years, to correlate relationships as harvest progresses.

Estimated utilization through February 2, 2003, for both categories is ahead of the past two seasons. Indications are 29 percent of the whites for certification have been harvested and 45 percent of the colored.

Citrus production, February 1, 2003  
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2000-01	2001-02	Jan 10, 2003	Feb 11, 2003
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Grapefruit:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>46,700</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>White</b> <sup>1/</sup>	<b>18,700</b>	<b>18,900</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<sup>2/</sup> <b>27,300</b>	<b>27,800</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>
Texas	7,200	5,900	5,600	5,600
Arizona	250	160	100	100
California	6,300	6,000	5,600	5,600
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>59,750</b>	<b>58,760</b>	<b>51,300</b>	<b>51,300</b>
<b>Lemons:</b>				
California	22,600	19,000	23,000	23,000
Arizona	3,600	2,800	2,800	2,800
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>26,200</b>	<b>21,800</b>	<b>25,800</b>	<b>25,800</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>150</b>	<sup>3/</sup>	<sup>3/</sup>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<sup>3/</sup>	<sup>3/</sup>
<b>Tangerines:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Early</b> <sup>3/</sup>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>California</b> <sup>4/</sup>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Arizona</b> <sup>4/</sup>	<b>650</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>8,450</b>	<b>9,420</b>	<b>8,050</b>	<b>7,950</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes seedy. <sup>2/</sup> Excludes two million boxes of economic abandonment. <sup>3/</sup> No forecast. <sup>4/</sup> 2000-01 through 2001-02; Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy; 2002-03 forecast - Fallglo and Sunburst only. <sup>5/</sup> Includes tangelos.

Components used in the February forecast

Type	Bearing trees (1,000)	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
White Grapefruit <sup>1/</sup>	3,784	398	9	79
Colored Grapefruit	6,352	387	12	87

<sup>1/</sup> Seedless variety only.

**EARLY TANGERINES STAY AT 3.0 MILLION BOXES**

The early tangerine crop forecast is held at 3.0 million boxes. The **Fallglo** variety has been completely harvested. The **Sunburst** variety weekly estimated certifications have decreased to only a few thousand boxes. The total of both varieties are at the forecast level and the final estimate will depend on revisions of weekly estimated utilization.

**HONEY TANGERINES REDUCED TO 2.0 MILLION BOXES**

The forecast of the later maturing **Honey** tangerines is reduced 0.1 million boxes. The final fruit size is less than the preceding month, which may have resulted from cold weather inhibiting growth on the remaining samples. Loss from fruit drop is less than the 40 percent mean. However, as of February 3, 2003, over 35 percent of the crop still remains to be certified. Last season, with a total recorded estimate of 2.25 million boxes, 39 percent of the certified crop went into processing. Condition of the crop will determine the percent shipped fresh and processed this season.

**TEMPLES REMAIN AT 1.4 MILLION BOXES**

The Temple forecast is continued at 1.4 million boxes. This is 10 percent less than the 1.55 million boxes utilized last season. If the forecast amount is realized, it will equal the second smallest crop on record, which occurred in the freeze-damaged season of 1989-90. Average fruit size showed no increase in January and loss from droppage increased. It is projected that most of the remaining Temples will be processed rapidly. Last season over 79 percent of the certified crop went for processing.

**TANGELOS HELD AT 2.4 MILLION BOXES**

The tangelo forecast is maintained at 2.4 million boxes. Utilization of the crop this season has been considerably better than in recent seasons. Last season, from a total recorded crop of only 2.15 million boxes, 1.5 million boxes were used for processing. In comparison, as of February 3, 2003, an estimated total of 2.2 million boxes (including the preseason allowance of 200,000 boxes) has been utilized with an estimated 1.6 million boxes used for processing. The route survey (Row Count) conducted on January 29-30, 2003, indicates sufficient remaining volume to attain the forecast.

**Unadjusted Maturity Tests:** Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	

Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.

ORANGES:

Early (26-16)

Sep 1	1.45	1.42	9.50	9.43	6.81	6.78	44.17	41.83	4.20	3.95
Oct 1	1.01	0.93	9.66	9.77	9.87	10.72	48.71	50.05	4.70	4.89
Nov 1	0.83	0.74	10.42	10.45	12.92	14.62	52.91	51.68	5.51	5.39
Dec 1	NA	0.75	NA	11.18	NA	15.18	NA	48.66	NA	5.44
Jan 1	0.69	0.69	11.77	11.54	17.45	16.80	51.16	51.44	6.02	5.94
Feb 1	0.66	0.72	12.17	12.14	18.74	16.98	50.96	49.34	6.21	6.00

Midseason (20-10)

Sep 1	1.66	1.32	9.46	8.88	5.80	6.88	44.10	46.63	4.17	4.13
Oct 1	1.23	0.96	9.77	9.33	8.12	10.00	50.83	53.88	4.96	5.02
Nov 1	1.02	0.76	10.73	10.29	10.71	13.95	52.79	55.01	5.66	5.65
Dec 1	NA	0.71	NA	11.02	NA	15.95	NA	52.58	NA	5.80
Jan 1	0.82	0.71	12.61	11.47	15.69	16.70	52.02	51.97	6.56	5.98
Feb 1	0.78	0.73	13.35	11.99	17.42	17.07	52.26	49.62	6.99	5.96

Late (150-150)

Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.19	2.04	8.87	8.70	4.11	4.34	47.72	48.96	4.23	4.26
Nov 1	1.76	1.64	9.20	9.23	5.31	5.72	52.00	52.37	4.79	4.83
Dec 1	NA	1.42	NA	10.05	NA	7.19	NA	53.19	NA	5.35
Jan 1	1.25	1.24	10.96	10.85	8.89	8.86	55.38	54.28	6.07	5.89
Feb 1	1.12	1.19	11.71	11.48	10.62	9.73	55.50	54.56	6.50	6.27

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and nor restrictions are used.

Maturity test averages by areas, February 1, 2003

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	0	—	—	—	—	—
Other Areas	16	0.72	12.14	16.98	49.34	6.00
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	2	0.97	14.10	14.63	51.64	7.27
Other Areas	8	0.67	11.46	17.68	49.12	5.64
Late						
Indian River Dist.	28	1.24	11.82	9.64	54.96	6.50
Other Areas	122	1.18	11.41	9.75	54.47	6.21

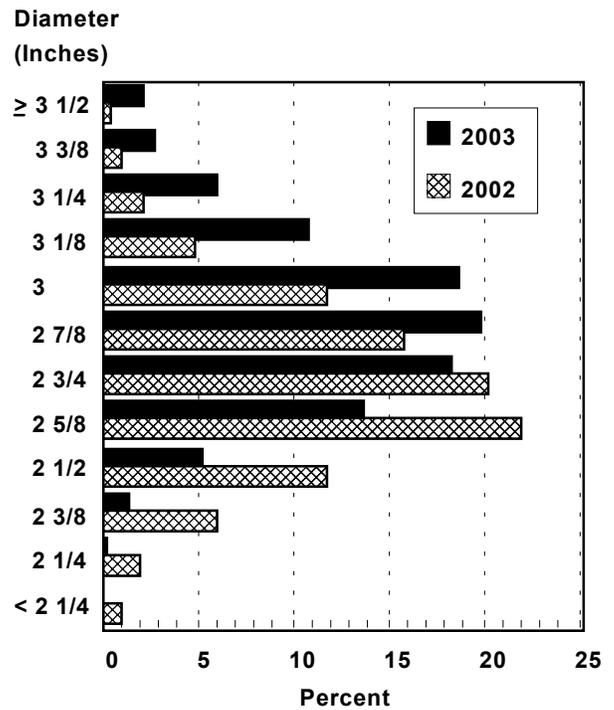
**FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS**

Size frequency distributions from the January size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period January 13 through 28, 2003. Comparable sizes for 2001 and 2002 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

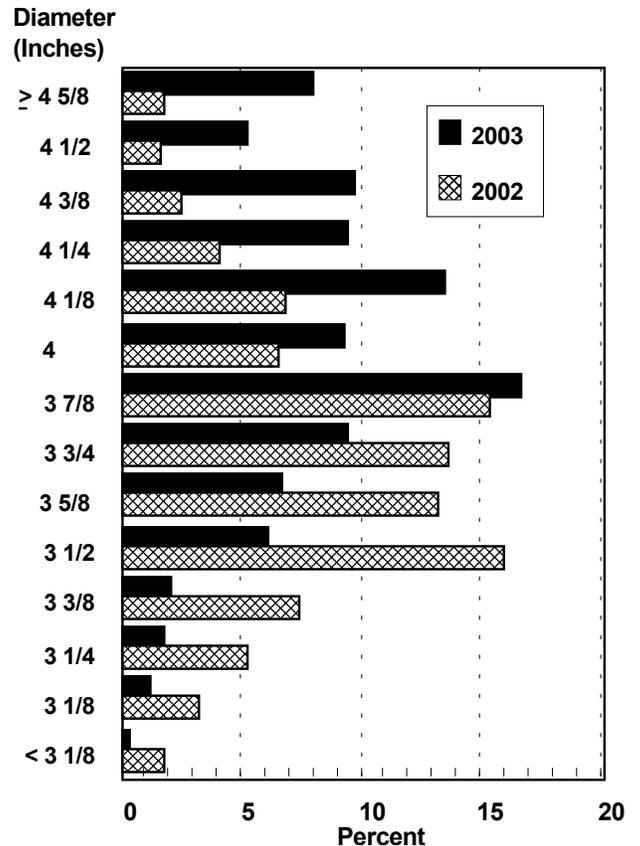
**FLORIDA CITRUS:** Size frequency distributions from January measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2001	2002	2003
--- Percent ---			
<b>Valencia oranges:</b>			
64 and larger	2.8	5.7	15.7
80	16.0	22.5	34.4
100	40.0	39.4	36.5
125	31.8	23.3	11.4
163 and smaller	9.4	9.1	2.0
<b>White seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	16.0	13.1	39.1
36	21.4	17.6	24.3
40	22.1	22.1	18.1
48	17.9	20.3	9.8
56	10.3	12.6	4.4
63 and smaller	12.3	14.3	4.3
<b>Colored seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	6.8	5.7	23.4
36	14.9	13.1	22.7
40	24.5	20.7	23.5
48	22.9	23.5	14.2
56	13.7	14.7	7.6
63 and smaller	17.2	22.3	8.6
<b>Templets:</b>			
80 and larger	31.4	27.0	63.5
100	40.0	40.5	28.5
120	23.0	23.9	6.5
156 and smaller	5.6	8.6	1.5
<b>Honey tangerines:</b>			
80 and larger	25.9	44.7	26.3
100	36.5	29.1	33.7
120	22.2	20.3	25.8
176	8.0	3.9	7.1
210 and smaller	7.4	2.0	7.1

**CHART 1:** Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from January measurements.



**CHART 2:** White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from January measurements.



The charts to the right compare the relationship of the January 2003 Valencia orange and white seedless grapefruit fruit size measurements with those taken in January 2002. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.